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# Machinists' Big Gains Are Being Obtained by Men Joining Union

**Reduction In Hours Causes No Wage Cut—Prediction  
Is Made Eight-Hour Day Will Extend Over Entire  
Jurisdiction.**

"The International Association of Machinists is taking the fullest advantage of the present prosperity due to war-order profits," declared President William H. Johnston in a statement made relative to the campaign being waged by the machinists for the eight-hour day and higher wages.

"New England, the seat of the munition factories, is the 'salient' on which we are training our forty-two centimeter howitzers," explained Mr. Johnston. "In Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island we have twenty special organizers in the field."

"The interest in the eight-hour movement initiated by the machinists is well illustrated by a meeting held under our auspices a few days ago at Waterbury, Conn. The meeting was attended by over 2,000 workers. At its close 250 men applied for membership in the I. A. of M."

President Johnston and other officials at the international headquarters of the Machinists' Union in Washington are jubilant over their accomplishments during the month of August.

"August, 1915, has been a great month for the I. A. of M. in particular and organized labor in general," declared Mr. Johnston.

"We have been simply unable to restrain the militant enthusiasm of our members. As to our victories, there is an incomplete list of them which our publicity department has just prepared," exclaimed Johnston, fingering two large sheets with closely-spaced typewritten data.

"Take Bridgeport, Conn. Bridgeport is the banner town in the machinists' campaign. We brought the Remington Arms Company and the Union Metallic Cartridge Company up standing in short order. These concerns had been working their men fifty-five hours a week. After a strike of a few days' duration both concerns granted the forty-eight-hour week with no reduction in pay."

"Then came the Bullard Machine Company with a reduction from the fifty-five-hour week to the forty-eight-hour week with no reduction in wages."

"Quickly followed the Locomobile Company of America—from fifty-five to forty-eight hours with no reduction in wages."

"Then the fight concentrated on such firms as the American & British Manufacturing Company, the Burns & Basick Company, the Sprague Motor Company, the Standard Manufacturing Company, the Electric Cable Company, the Warner Corset Company and numerous smaller concerns. In some instances these plants had worked their employees sixty hours a week. Now they are all under the forty-eight-hour limit."

"From the data now in the possession of our officials we can state that at least 30,000 wage earners in and around Bridgeport have gained on an average seven hours of leisure per week with no reduction in wages. Collectively this means that the Bridgeport workers have at least 210,000 additional hours per week to spend with their

families than they did before the machinists unlimbered their batteries in Bridgeport.

"Nor did we gain these victories by striking. The strike was resorted to in but three shops."

"Our victories for better conditions for the workers have not been limited to Connecticut," continued Mr. Johnston. "In Taunton, Mass., the Michle Printing Press Company and the Machine Company have reduced the hours of their employees from fifty-nine to forty-eight per week with no reduction in wages."

"In Boston, the men employed by the Becker Brainerd Milling Machine Company, the Sturtevant Blower Company and the National Tool Company are on strike for the eight-hour day with excellent outlook for securing the demands speedily."

"In Toledo, Ohio, the Toledo Machine and Tool Company has granted the eight-hour day with the same wages formerly paid for the longer day."

"In Wilmington, Del., our men have initiated strikes in several shops for the eight-hour day."

"In Pawtucket, R. I., the Potter & Johnston employees are on strike for the eight-hour day. In Woonsocket, R. I., the employees of the Taft-Pierce Company have likewise thrown down their tools until the eight-hour day is granted."

"In Plainfield, N. J., six concerns have yielded to our demands for the eight-hour day during the month of August. They are: The Sauer Motor Truck Company, the Pond Machine Tool Company, the Scott Printing Press Company, the Potter Press Company, the Vitaphone Company and the Bosch Magneto Company. The employees of all these concerns are receiving the same wages for the forty-eight-hour week that they formerly received for the longer hours."

"At Wheeling, W. Va., we have persuaded the Wheeling Can Company to reduce the hours from ten and a half to nine a day, accompanied with the establishment of an increased minimum wage scale."

"Last, but not least, there is the DuPont Powder Company. This concern employs nearly 50,000 wage earners. Up to the time the I. A. of M. began its militant campaign for the eight-hour day along in July, the DuPont Company worked its men ten hours a day. The Powder employers might soon appreciate the desirability of meeting the demands of the workers. On August 5 the DuPont Company reduced the hours in its plants from ten to eight per day with no reduction in the rate of pay."

"We are pursuing our work of organizing," concluded President Johnston, "with all the enthusiasm and militancy that our continued victories give us. The officials of the I. A. of M. are confident that the eight-hour day will soon be very generally established. And owing to the prevailing economic conditions we expect to obtain the shorter work-day without recourse to but few strikes."—The Tribune, Springfield, O.

## THIS RUMMY WORLD.

The longer I linger the more I discern that this world of ours is a darn queer concern. It's a crime to pick pockets, but it's perfectly right to pick a man's wages on Saturday night; for the laws are so constructed, wherever I've been, that the workers are made for the graters to skin. If you try to be honest you don't stand a chance; you are sure to be known by the patch on your pants. If you steal a few millions you are a person of note; if you steal a hambone the police get your goat. If you run around naked, you're sent to the pen; if you swipe some old clothing you get there again. If you murder in war, then your valor is sung; if you privately murder you're doomed to be hung. If a girl sells her virtue she's branded as vile; but the rooster that bought it is met with a smile. If a man tells the truth, then the people get tired; if he tells them a myth, why they say he's inspired. It's a funny old world wherever you turn; it's a devilish twisted and darn queer concern; it's badly balled up and it's all out of tune, and must be a sight to the man in the moon.—Henry M. Tichenor.

## GIRLS JOINING UNION.

Newark, N. J.—Representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are meeting with success in their efforts to organize the thousands of girls employed in Newark's white goods industry. Low wages and an elaborate system of fines and charges make a living wage impossible for these workers who are forced to labor sixty hours a week. Local trade unionists are assisting the Garment Workers' Union.

## UNION HEAD TELLS OF STRIKE BRIBE ATTEMPT.

Toledo, O.—Foreign agents offered T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Union, \$10,000 for a one month's general strike of his men along the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, O'Connor said today. He told delegates from the Longshoremen's Union of the Great Lakes district of the offer, and cautioned them not to be misled.

A strike would hamper shipments of munitions to the Allies and give spies an opportunity to plant bombs in vessels.

## ALTGELD'S MEMORY HONORED IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill.—Organized labor joined with federal and state officials, Labor Day, in paying honor to the memory of John Peter Altgeld, former governor of Illinois, by unveiling a statue of this champion of common rights.

"Altgeld was a friend of the common people and never feared to take a stand with them," Governor Dunne said. "Pre-eminently he had the courage of his convictions. He upheld the right and denounced the wrong at all times, under all circumstances, and in every place."

"He believed the conviction of the anarchists was the result of the mob's demand, although the mob was clothed in purple and fine linen. When he was elected governor he had the courage to do what was a most unpopular thing at that time—to pardon the anarchists then confined at Joliet. In so doing he gave his reasons, and the doing startled the whole community."

"His moral courage was again displayed when President Cleveland, without request from governor, legislature or mayor, sent federal troops into this city for the purpose of suppressing riot. He protested, and protested vigorously."

"Devotion to public interest compelled him to neglect his private business, and during his term of office he became seriously embarrassed financially. But in spite of this, this man had the resolute honesty and iron-like integrity which made him refuse a bribe of half a million of dollars. I know of no man who was more devoted to the cause of human liberty, whether it was in his own land or in the land of strangers."

## TEACHERS' CASE DISCUSSED.

Chicago, Ill.—At the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor resolutions were passed calling on Mayor Thompson not to appoint persons on the school board who deny teachers the right to organize. William Rothman and Jacob Loeb, most active in their opposition to the teachers, were disgruntled, unionists said, because the Teachers' Federation had blocked several plans fostered by various members of the school board.

"The school board and the revenge seeking politicians think they are striking a blow at the labor movement, but there will be a reaction that will bury them. We want it understood that the school board is in for a battle that will be waged against it until the last labor union in Chicago is wiped out," declared John Fitzpatrick, president of the federation.

Miss Margaret Haley, business representative of the Teachers' Federation, said evidence was in the hands of the State's attorney to prove a conspiracy. "Whether we have enough evidence to prove criminal conspiracy is another question," she said, "but we have enough to make the people realize what kind of men are at the head of their educational system."

## FINDS GOOD IN REPORT.

Philadelphia, Pa.—In an editorial comment on the work of the Commission on Industrial Relations, the North American of this city assumes a different attitude from the average daily newspaper when discussing the work of this commission. This paper says:

"Unhappily, the conflicts of opinion give the supporters of special privilege an opportunity to sneer at the work of the commission as self-contradictory and worthless—a criticism which may deceive some careless readers of imperfect abstracts. But as the voluminous records are studied and discussed, they will increase understanding of the essential things in the obvious maladjustment of our industrial and social affairs, and will help the American people gradually to establish that approximation of justice which is their desire and which alone can avert national disaster."

## WOULD ABOLISH GOVERNORS.

Melbourne, Victoria.—In an attempt to check Australia's increasing debt and to enlarge the people's rule, the Labor party has submitted a referendum to the various States which would amend the federal constitution and empower the commonwealth parliament to abolish State governors and legislative councils.

The Labor party is in control of the federal government and five States. The financial question is a vital problem and is stated as follows by W. Wallis, writing in the Labor Call of this city: "Australia, the youngest of the nations, has the greatest debt per capita. Every child born in the commonwealth owes the State \$390. Children are thus handicapped from the start. The national debt is becoming a nightmare."

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Diffusing cheer.  
In fact, they smile, as one might say,  
From ear to ear.  
Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Aids to Memory.**  
"What's the string tied on your finger for, Billy?"  
"That? My wife put it there."  
"To remind you?"  
"Yes, to remind me to—to— Bless my soul, what was it to remind me of, now? Oh, yes, I know! My wife tied that string on my finger so that if anything worries me I'll remember to forget it!"—Pittsburgh Press.

**A Plateau In Papua.**  
The most singular plateau in the world is in the island of Papua. The plateau is 6,000 feet above the sea, and there are summits towering 5,000 feet higher, but owing to the proximity of the equator the great plain is covered with luxuriant vegetation. The climate is a perpetual May, birds sing in every bush, and the only animals are a few marsupials, such as ground kangaroos and opossums. Yet this lovely region is almost deserted. The Papuans live in the sweltering coast jungles and rarely visit the uplands.

**The Difference.**  
Case and Comment says that at a recent meeting in Hampton one of the speakers told of a colored witness who was rebuked by the judge for his constant repetition of the phrase, "also and likewise." "Now, judge," replied the witness, "there's a difference between those words. I's gwine to splain. Yo' father was an att'ny and a great one, wasn't he?" The judge assented, somewhat placated. "Well, judge, yo's an att'ny also, but not likewise. See, judge?"

**Author of "Annie Laurie."**  
"Annie Laurie," according to the generally accepted story, was written by a soldier in Flanders to his lady-love at home. The writer was William Douglas, and Annie Laurie was one of the four daughters of Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwellton. Sad to relate, says the London Chronicle, Annie did not marry her ardent lover. Some say Douglas was killed in Flanders, but at all events Annie was led to the altar in 1799 by Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch.

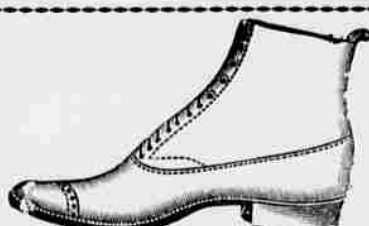
**British General Elections.**  
The British "general election," which can be called an appeal to the people and on which the existing government may be obliged to "go out," is practically a referendum. In case of a deadlock or disagreement in parliament or cabinet a general election may be called at any time. Although the vote of the people is not taken directly on a question, but on the representatives whose standing on the question is known, the result is the same as if the bill itself were being voted upon.

**Munitions in the Long Ago.**  
The munition question was a simpler matter for our forefathers than for us, but they were acquainted with it. Richard III. ordained that with every ton of certain goods imported into England ten yew bows should be sent. Bow-makers, too, were not allowed to use our own yew wastefully, and some standard of skill had to be reached before one could possess a bow of that wood. The novice had to be content with ash or elm.—London Standard.

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